

AMENDED IN SENATE JUNE 30, 2014

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY JANUARY 23, 2014

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY JANUARY 6, 2014

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY SEPTEMBER 11, 2013

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 9, 2013

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2013–14 REGULAR SESSION

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 690

**Introduced by Assembly Members Campos and Medina
(Coauthors: Assembly Members Alejo, Daly, Fox, Linder, and
V. Manuel Pérez)**

February 21, 2013

An act to add the heading of Chapter 1 (commencing with Section 99500) to, to add Chapter 2 (commencing with Section 99520) and Chapter 3 (commencing with Section 99530) to, Title 20 of, and to repeal Chapter 8 (commencing with Section 8700) and Chapter 8.1 (commencing with Section 8710) of Division 1 of Title 2 of, the Government Code, relating to state government.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 690, as amended, Campos. State government: international relations.

Existing law requires the California-Mexico Border Relations Council to, among other things, coordinate activities of state agencies that are related to cross-border programs, initiatives, projects, and partnerships that exist within state government. Existing law also authorizes the Office of California-Mexico Affairs to develop better relations with

Mexico by coordinating with state agencies to foster economic cooperation.

This bill would repeal, and recast those provisions relating to the California-Mexico Border Relations Council. This bill would repeal and recast those provisions relating to the Office of California-Mexico Affairs.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: no.
State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Chapter 8 (commencing with Section 8700) of
2 Division 1 of Title 2 of the Government Code is repealed.

3 SEC. 2. Chapter 8.1 (commencing with Section 8710) of
4 Division 1 of Title 2 of the Government Code is repealed.

5 SEC. 3. The heading of Chapter 1 (commencing with Section
6 99500) is added to Title 20 of the Government Code, to read:

7
8 CHAPTER 1. GENERAL PROVISIONS

9
10 SEC. 4. Chapter 2 (commencing with Section 99520) is added
11 to Title 20 of the Government Code, to read:

12
13 CHAPTER 2. OFFICE OF CALIFORNIA-MEXICO AFFAIRS

14
15 99520. The Legislature finds and declares the following:

16 (a) The United States and Mexican economies have become
17 increasingly integrated, particularly since the 1994 adoption of the
18 North American Free Trade Agreement, or NAFTA.

19 (b) As the second largest United States exporter to Mexico,
20 California has the potential to increase its exports at a faster pace
21 and capitalize on Mexico's growing economy.

22 (c) In 2012, the value of California's exports to Mexico totaled
23 \$26.3 billion, equivalent to more than one and one-half times
24 California's trade with its closest trade partner Canada, at \$17.2
25 billion, and almost twice its second closest trade partner, China,
26 at \$13.9 billion.

27 (d) The relationship between Mexico and California generates
28 over \$20.9 billion per year for California.

1 (e) According to the United States Chamber of Commerce, trade
2 with Mexico in 2010 represented 692,240 California jobs, making
3 California the state with the most trade-related jobs with Mexico
4 in the United States. California is the ~~second-largest~~ *second largest*
5 exporter to Mexico among the 50 states, ranking behind Texas.

6 (f) Among California's international trading partners, only
7 Mexico shares a border with California. In fact, California has four
8 major international border crossings supporting the movement of
9 both persons and goods: San Ysidro, Otay Mesa, Tecate, and
10 Calexico. Of these, Otay Mesa and Calexico accommodate the
11 largest volume of trade. Otay Mesa is the largest California
12 crossing, ranking sixth in the nation. In 2010, these California
13 gateways with Mexico moved \$46.9 billion in merchandise.

14 (g) At issue is border crossing delays between Mexico and the
15 United States along the Imperial County-Baja California border.

16 (h) In California, losses due to border crossing delays accounted
17 for an estimated revenue loss of \$1.16 billion and 25,000 jobs in
18 2008.

19 (i) While California remains the largest recipient of foreign
20 domestic investment (FDI) in the United States, faster FDI is
21 occurring elsewhere.

22 (j) Despite this critical economic relationship, California has
23 not had a formal mechanism for the past decade devoted to
24 maximizing trade, addressing challenges, and coordinating
25 cross-border programs for trade development between the two
26 countries. This has left California employers and businesses
27 without formal access to Mexican government officials, a major
28 disadvantage to California's trade industries.

29 (k) In 2006, the Office of California-Mexico Affairs was
30 established to further and develop favorable relations with Mexican
31 states by cooperating with similar organizations and agencies
32 situated within California, the United States, or Mexico. Important
33 areas of activity include, but are not limited to, enhancing economic
34 development opportunities among the participating states,
35 improving working conditions and living standards, and fostering
36 the protection and improvement of the environment in Mexico and
37 California.

38 (l) To help carry out these duties the California-Mexico Border
39 Relations Council was also established to identify new border
40 priorities and fundable projects in the areas of infrastructure, trade,

1 environment, health, and security while supporting current and
2 ongoing activities such as the Border Governors Conference, trade
3 missions, and border workgroups, and coordinating specific future
4 projects with Mexico.

5 (m) It is critical for California that state agencies continue to
6 address important United States-Mexico issues.

7 (n) Furthermore, California should maximize its economic
8 relationship with Mexico to improve the state's economy, to
9 maximize the amount of exports, and create more California jobs.

10 (o) Therefore, the Legislature finds that California needs a
11 formalized trade relationship with Mexico. Establishing an official
12 trade relationship with Mexico will help ensure that the state can
13 improve its global competitiveness and protect California industry,
14 proactively support the expansion and location of businesses in
15 California, provide international business assistance to California
16 businesses, and support their entry and successful participation in
17 the growing Mexican marketplace.

18 (p) The Office of California-Mexico Affairs and the
19 California-Mexico Border Relations Council provide a focal point
20 in state government to serve as a clearinghouse for information
21 and assistance to other state agencies that are involved with
22 Mexico.

23 99521. The following definitions shall govern the construction
24 of this chapter:

25 (a) "Conference" means the Southwest Border Regional
26 Conference.

27 (b) "Office" means the Office of California-Mexico Affairs.

28 99522. (a) There is in state government an Office of
29 California-Mexico Affairs. Within this office the operations of the
30 California Office of the Southwest Border Regional Conference
31 shall be continued.

32 (b) The office succeeds to and is vested with all the duties,
33 powers, purposes, and responsibilities vested in the California
34 office of the conference and previously vested in the Commission
35 of the Californias.

36 (c) The office shall have possession and control of all records,
37 papers, offices, equipment, supplies, moneys, funds, appropriations,
38 land, and other property, real or personal, held for the benefit or
39 use of the California office of the conference, or previously held
40 for the benefit or use of the commission, in the performance of the

1 duties, powers, purposes, responsibilities, and jurisdiction of the
2 California office of the conference or the commission.

3 99523. The Governor, or his or her designee, shall serve as the
4 California member of any board, council, commission, or other
5 binational advisory or coordinating body convened under the
6 auspices of the Office of ~~the~~ California-Mexico Affairs.

7 99524. The office shall further and develop favorable relations
8 with the State of Baja California, the State of Baja California Sur,
9 other Mexican states bordering the United States, and the remaining
10 states and territories of the Republic of Mexico necessary for the
11 completion of the office's tasks. The office shall cooperate with
12 similar organizations and agencies situated within California, the
13 United States, or Mexico, to further economic development,
14 improve working conditions and living standards, and foster the
15 protection and improvement of the environment in Mexico and
16 California. The office shall avail itself of the services of San Diego
17 State University, which is engaged in educational, cultural, and
18 research activities with Mexico. The office shall be responsible
19 for carrying out the ongoing responsibilities of the Southwest
20 Border Regional Conference and any successor binational
21 organization.

22 99525. The Governor shall appoint a director of the office. The
23 director may appoint and employ any personnel that he or she
24 deems necessary to carry out the functions of the office. The office
25 may incur all necessary expenses to effectuate its purposes and
26 may accept grants from federal and state agencies. The office may
27 also accept funds from private organizations or individuals in order
28 to assist the office in the accomplishment of its functions as set
29 forth in this chapter.

30 99526. Members and employees of the office may travel outside
31 of California and may hold hearings and conduct investigations
32 within and outside of the state whenever necessary to carry out
33 the duties set forth in this chapter. Members and employees may
34 acquire any available information from any governmental agency
35 within the United States or Mexico necessary for the completion
36 of their tasks.

37 99527. The office shall be responsible for the establishment
38 of committees in those topic areas deemed necessary by the
39 director. Recommendations of the committees shall not be binding

1 on the Governor or the Legislature but shall only be advisory in
2 nature.

3 SEC. 5. Chapter 3 (commencing with Section 99530) is added
4 to Title 20 of the Government Code, to read:

5
6 CHAPTER 3. CALIFORNIA-MEXICO BORDER RELATIONS COUNCIL

7
8 99530. The following definitions shall apply to this chapter:

9 (a) "Border" means the line of demarcation between California
10 and Mexico.

11 (b) "Council" means the California-Mexico Border Relations
12 Council.

13 (c) "Public agency" means a city, county, city and county,
14 district, or the state or any agency or department of the state.

15 99531. (a) The California-Mexico Border Relations Council
16 is hereby established in state government. The council shall consist
17 of the Director of the Governor's Office of Business and Economic
18 Development, the Secretary of the Natural Resources Agency, the
19 Secretary for Environmental Protection, the Secretary of California
20 Health and Human Services, the Secretary of Transportation, the
21 Secretary of Food and Agriculture, and the Director of Emergency
22 Services.

23 (b) ~~The Director of the Governor's Office of Business and~~
24 ~~Economic Development~~ *Secretary for Environmental Protection*
25 shall chair the council.

26 99532. The council shall do all of the following:

27 (a) Coordinate activities of state agencies that are related to
28 cross-border programs, initiatives, projects, and partnerships that
29 exist within state government, to improve the effectiveness of state
30 and local efforts that are of concern between California and
31 Mexico.

32 (b) Establish policies to coordinate the collection and sharing
33 of data related to cross-border issues between and among agencies.

34 (c) Identify and recommend to the Legislature changes in law
35 needed to achieve the goals of this section.

36 99533. Beginning January 1, 2008, the council shall submit a
37 report to the Legislature on the council's activities annually.

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